



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process and Community Involvement

NEPA requires U.S. federal agencies to consider the potential environmental consequences of their actions before making a decision. The public participates in the process by:

- Helping to identify environmental issues and potential alternatives during the scoping period
- Evaluating the analysis of the proposed action and alternatives during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) public comment period
- Evaluating the Final EIS and U.S. Marine Corps responses to the public comments received on the Draft EIS during the Final EIS wait period

Milestone	Description	Schedule
Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an EIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of the NOI in the Federal Register started the public involvement phase of the NEPA process 	Oct. 30, 2008
▶ Scoping Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted before the start of environmental analysis • Involved the public and other agencies in identifying the environmental issues and reasonable alternatives to be addressed in the EIS • Provided three scoping meetings and a 94-day public comment period 	Scoping Period: Oct. 30, 2008 – Jan. 31, 2009 Scoping Meetings: Twentynine Palms – Dec. 3, 2008 Victorville – Dec. 4, 2008 Ontario – Dec. 5, 2008
Draft EIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presents the analysis of potential environmental impacts of the proposed action and each alternative, including a No-Action Alternative • Made available for public and agency review and comment • Filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and made available to interested parties 	Feb. 25, 2011
▶ Notice of Availability followed by Public Meetings and Comment Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a 90-day public comment period • Public meetings held to receive comments on the Draft EIS 	Public Comment Period: Feb. 25, 2011 – May 26, 2011 Public Meetings: Joshua Tree – April 12, 2011 Ontario – April 13, 2011 Victorville – April 14, 2011
Final EIS and Notice of Availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update to the Draft EIS based on comments received during the public meetings and comment period • Announced via a Notice of Availability of the Final EIS published in the Federal Register and appropriate newspapers • Filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and made available to interested parties 	December 2011
▶ 30-Day Wait Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a 30-day wait period after the Final EIS is published • Interested parties have 30 days to review and submit comments on the Final EIS 	January 2012
Record of Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follows the 30-day wait period and consideration of public comments on the possible environmental impacts • Includes selection of an alternative by the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations & Environment) • Announced via a Notice of Record of Decision published in the Federal Register and appropriate newspapers • Made available to interested parties 	April 2012

▶ Opportunities for Public Review and Comment

Complete

In Progress